

component accepts the message blocking request based on an evaluation of the communication system.

9. (Twice Amended) A method for controlling messages in a communication system, comprising the steps of:

b2 receiving a message blocking request from a first mobile switching center (MSC) at a system control function component (SCF), the message blocking request identifying a second MSC; and

preventing messages from being communicated from the second MSC to the first MSC.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 9 are independent.

PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-8 and 17

Claims 1-8 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,266,402 to Ferguson et al. (hereinafter Ferguson). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.